

Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 Newsletter

Tucson First

March 21, 2016

In this issue...

End to Live Greyhound Racing? HB 2127	1
More from Phoenix	3
From State to County Issues	4
Sales Tax Increase	5
Sonoran Corridor	5
World View	6
City Budget	8
Water Bills	10
Environmental Services	12
Ronstadt Transit Center	13
Banner UMC	13
Broadway RTA Project	14
Neighborhood Quality of Life	15
Sunshine Mile Pop-Up Market	17
Garden District Porch Fest	17
Cyclovia	17
Conserve2Enhance Program	18
Birding in Tucson	19
Events and Entertainment	20

End to Live Greyhound Racing? HB 2127



Last Wednesday, the State Senate Finance Committee heard a bill which would end live dog racing in Arizona. Finally.

Here's the language of the bill that would achieve that end:

I. H. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, LIVE DOG RACING SHALL NOT BE CONDUCTED IN THIS STATE AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2016. Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, any dog racing permittee **THAT OFFERED LIVE DOG RACING IN 2016 OR** that has offered live dog racing in eight out of ten calendar years from 1980 to 1990 in counties that have a population of less than five hundred thousand persons shall be considered as operating a racetrack enclosure for all purposes



Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police
Department
911 or nonemergency
791-4444

Water Issues
791-3242/800-598-9449
Emergency: 791-4133

Street Maintenance
791-3154

Graffiti Removal
792-2489

Abandoned
Shopping Carts
791-3171

Neighborhood
Resources
837-5013

SunTran/SunLink
792-9222
TDD: 628-1565

Environmental
Services
791-3171

Park Wise
791-5071

Planning and
Development
Services 791-5550

Pima Animal Care
Center
724-5900

Pima County Vector
Control
Cockroach: 443-6501
Mosquito: 243-7999

Continued: A Message From Steve

under this article and shall not be **AUTHORIZED OR** required to conduct live racing as a condition of that permittee's racing permit. Any permittee qualified under this subsection may conduct **ADVANCE DEPOSIT WAGERING, WAGERING AT ADDITIONAL WAGERING FACILITIES THAT ARE OWNED OR LEASED BY THAT PERMITTEE AND** wagering on telecasts of races conducted at racetrack enclosures within this state or at racetrack enclosures outside this state without offering live racing at that permittee's racetrack enclosure.

I've shared before that Tucson Greyhound Park has a permit to race through the end of this calendar year. If this bill is adopted and signed into law, ensuring all of the dogs out at the park find quality forever homes and aren't either shipped off to another track or farmed out as coyote hunting bait becomes the challenge. We'll tackle that step when/if it comes.

As you'll imagine, not everybody's happy with the bill. One group, Arizona Adopt a Greyhound, circulated a nasty message last week that really exposed just how clearly this issue is about the gaming industry, and not the welfare of the dogs. Here's the text:

Tucson Greyhound Park and Grey2K seem to have teamed up for a strike all bill in Arizona to make live greyhound racing illegal (live racing, not just the gambling) allowing TGP to profit from simulcasting while screwing over the greyhound industry.

You may not care about Tucson as the funds have been anemic. Good riddance to them you may say, but the concern here is that those in the know believe slot (my add: they're talking about slot machines used in casinos) discussions for other AZ tracks were likely on the horizon for negotiations again within the next year or two. This isn't so much about TGP as it is about preventing Phoenix Greyhound Park, and possibly Apache, from running live racing again with the support of slots. We all know slots are not the savior of existing live racing, but in this case I wish Rory Goreé luck in being heard, because any chance of Phoenix Greyhound Park reopening as a major track is worth fighting for. Slots have killed racing elsewhere, but where they could revive racing they would instead be beneficial.

Well, give them credit for honesty anyway. Not only is their focus on the gaming end of the industry, but they want to expand it and reopen tracks back up in Phoenix to maximize their betting profits – at the expense of the dogs. This group (AAG) has been trying to rally support for bringing racing back to Phoenix since their track closed in 2009. What they don't seem to want to acknowledge is that the former owner of the track (Delaware North) sold the entire Phoenix Greyhound Park property to Sky Harbor – it's destined to become a new runway for the airport, not a greyhound race track.

And the reference to Rory Goreé? He's the chair of the State Racing Commission. Last week, that "regulatory" group came out against closing down live racing. It has also shown itself to be an advocate for gambling, not simply a regulatory agency over the in-

dustry. There are conflicts of interest all over, but if things progress as hoped for by many, TGP may be closing down at the end of the year and turned into a large off-track betting facility for horse racing across the country – a sport that does not abuse the animals involved.

I'll keep an eye on this bill as it moves towards the Governor's desk.

More from Phoenix

There are so many troublesome bills headed at us from the state that it's hard to focus on a smallish number of them. Here are several, though, that are still alive.



If this is the legislature's theme, then the best example of it is **SB1487**. Right now, local jurisdictions receive a large portion of their revenues through what's called State Shared Revenues.

State Shared Revenues are a combination of taxes that are generated locally, collected by the state, and then remitted back to jurisdictions based on population.

They include vehicle license fees, gas taxes, and income and sales taxes. Statewide the projected numbers are:

Vehicle License Tax	\$181,187,000
Highway User Revenue	\$308,911,000
State Sales Tax	\$434,000,000
State Income Tax	\$561,000,000

Big numbers. If SB1487 passes, anybody can claim that a city is violating a state statute, have the legislature require the Attorney General to do an investigation, and if the AG agrees with the claim, he or she can direct the Treasurer to withhold state shared revenues from the city until it capitulates (changes its local ordinance). If the city were to disagree, the case would go directly to the front of the line at the State Supreme Court for a final decision – like nothing else is more important on their docket – and the city would have to post bond equal to the amount of shared revenues it had received in the previous six months. There's nothing about due process contained in the bill. It's just a claim, an order, and the expectation of compliance. Here was my comment when questioned by the AP:

Tucson City Council Member Steve Kozachik called Senate Bill 1487 a preemptive strike to stop cities and towns from enacting legal regulations the Legislature doesn't like.



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff Flake (R)
520-575-8633

Congresswoman Martha McSally (R)
(2nd District)
(202) 225-2542
Tucson Office: 520-881-3588

Congressman Raul Grijalva (D)
(3rd District)
520-622-6788

Governor Doug Ducey (R)
602-542-4331
Tucson office:
520-628-6580

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
520-791-4201

ZoomTucson Map
<http://maps.tucsonaz.gov/zoomTucson/>

Kozachik said Gov. Doug Ducey and lawmakers are using the attorney general's office as judge and jury to muscle cities and towns into falling in line. Ducey in his State of the State address last month threatened to withhold shared revenue from cities that boosted the minimum wage above the state rate. Biggs' proposal doubles down on that promise.

"They are holding a financial sword over our heads and are frankly inviting a challenge," Kozachik said. "The guy (Ducey) is just an autocrat and so is Biggs and they are getting Brnovich to do their heavy lifting for them."

I'll stand by that – and if this ever comes into play through the AG's office, I will most certainly be supportive of any legal challenge to the bill M&C wants to bring.

We're elected to represent local constituents. Not everything that happens is "of statewide concern," and so the state doesn't have preemptive authority over everything we do. Last year, our State Shared Revenues were \$134M, about 27% of our General Fund. It's worth joining Conor McGregor in the octagon to take on the state.

...there's more

We're still watching several gun bills. Everything from the state joining a multi-state compact that would take away the ability of future legislatures (or voters) to pass gun laws that don't have the concurrence of the other states in the compact, to allowing former cops to carry guns into bars, to prohibiting checks through a Federal database for private gun sales (we'd be up for a challenge on this one), to banning any future Federal firearms laws from being enforced in Arizona are under consideration.

Similarly, they're still on the kick of prohibiting the enforcement of any Federal law the State deems to be in conflict with our statutes. And yes, it's ironic that they'd take that position when it comes to the state being preempted by the Feds, but turn it on its head when it comes to the state preempting the City of Tucson.

They're coming close to ending the session. Until that happens, we won't know the full extent of the damage.

From State to County Issues

Based on conversations I had with representatives of the Board of Supervisors, a few weeks ago I was pretty sure the County would agree to my request that the City retain its seat on the County Animal Care Advisory Committee. Despite even an offer to be nominated to that seat (I declined since I simply don't have the time), the Board of Supervisors voted to reject my request and instead lump our seat in with every other jurisdiction with whom they have an Intergovernmental Agreement to subsidize Pima Animal Care Center.

Last week, I shared just what a huge percentage of the 'business' done out at PACC comes from city residents. This new committee structure goes into effect on July 1st of this year. It'll do so without multiple animal welfare groups who had been involved since the inception of the committee, and our seat will now be a shared seat. No need to sugarcoat what I consider to be a rationally indefensible position and a vote that is 180 degrees contrary to the comments made to me personally in advance of the vote. Here's the new membership:

Southern Arizona Veterinary Medical Association (1)
 PACC Partners (jurisdictional partners) (1)
 Friends of PACC (nonprofit fundraising arm) (1)
 PACC Volunteer (1)
 Board of Supervisors (5)
 County Administrator (2)

Slightings like this only make it more difficult to refrain from commenting critically on other issues.

Sales Tax Increase

For example, the County is evidently headed to Phoenix ready to ask the legislature to allow an additional half-cent be added to the current RTA sales tax. They want to dedicate it to road repair. For five years I've been advocating they take the RTA back to the voters and instead of increasing the tax, allocate a portion of what you're already paying to road repair. Here are a few lines from a recent Green Valley News story on it:

Huckelberry is not the first to look to the RTA as a possible solution to road maintenance problems. For a few years, Tucson City Council member Steve Kozachik has been advocating changing the RTA plan to use its current funds to invest into repairs.

The difference between Kozachik's and Huckelberry's proposals would be that Kozachik would not increase the sales tax, but rather reallocate 20 percent of the money already coming in for road improvements and expansion – somewhere in the neighborhood of \$240 million – and direct that to pavement preservation.

Since the RTA has to go before voters eventually for an extension, that should be done sooner rather than later, with a new stipulation to turn the focus more on maintaining roads instead of expanding or building them, he said.

"People are smart enough to know if they build something new you have to maintain it," Kozachik said.

Kozachik was not a fan of Huckelberry's proposal, saying that using the current funding and not trying to levy additional taxes will be more palatable, not to mention passable, for the state lawmakers.

"I think he's making a fundamental mistake in asking this state Legislature in this climate to raise taxes," he said.

Just as I said I'd stand by my comments to the AP with respect to the State coming after our funds, I'll stand by my comment with respect to the County's desire to increase your sales taxes to pave the roads. In fact, it was just last week I shared that I'm not ready for the City to take the question of a half-cent sales tax to the voters until we get our own fiscal house in order.

Sonoran Corridor

For another example, we seem to have lost the momentum we had when I had invited the

Chair of the Board of Supervisors and Mr. Huckelberry to one of our study sessions to talk about the importance of the Sonoran Corridor. I suppose there's still time for them to get this onto November's ballot, but if the focus is on increasing the RTA sales tax, I don't expect to see this key economic development question going to you any longer.

I will continue to promote it as the way the City, County, and region pull out from our respective budget holes. As long as I'm quoting media stories, here's what I wrote in an op/ed for the Star last November on the importance of the Sonoran Corridor:

That's air cargo, tourism, rail commerce, preserving Raytheon, enhancing the work at the Tech Park and doing our part to capture international trade coming through the Mariposa Port of Entry. The \$30 million investment we just rejected would have cost less than a nickel per year on your property taxes. That deserves a fresh look.

The county folks can walk back an apparent commitment to give the City its seat on the animal care committee, but walking away from the Sonoran Corridor is a big regional economic issue. If you hear me speak about our budget issues, you'll hear about this, too.

World View

One more?

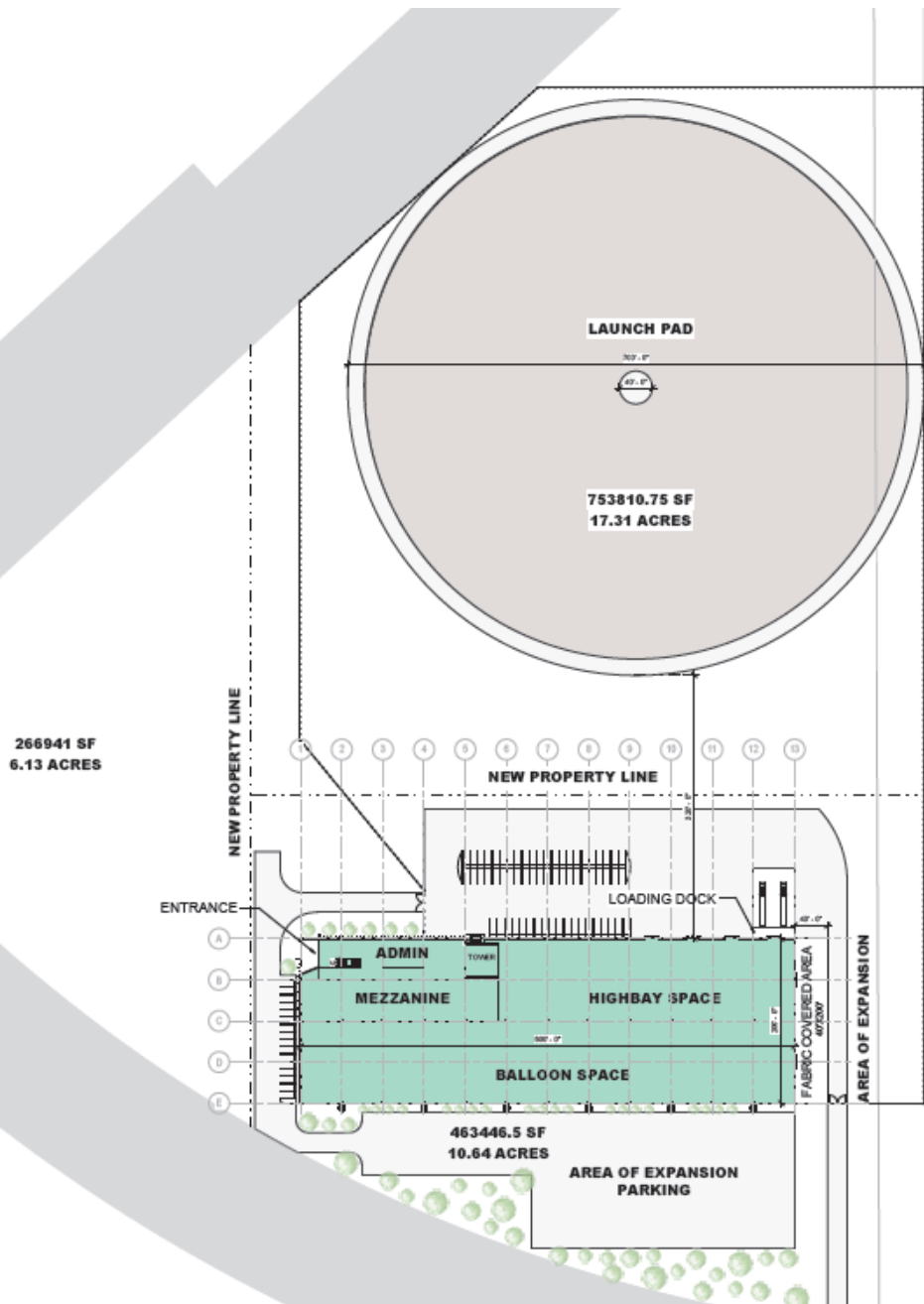
World View will hopefully be the first manufacturing company to land on the eventual Sonoran Corridor. I've written about them before – it's the group that will combine research contracts for near-space deployment with the opportunity to send private individuals up for their own high-altitude experiences. The County voted to fund a new facility for World View with \$13.5M of your money. They hope to see that money repaid in lease payments over 20 years.

Here's a rendering of the proposed new facility:



There will be slight changes to the exterior as the construction documents are finalized, but this is pretty close. It's a large metal building (bid in late January), and right now they've got bid packages out for the foundation of the site. Grading has begun so if things go as planned, the place may be occupied late this year.

I voted against giving World View our Primary Jobs Incentive because I believe it failed to meet our requirements. To be eligible, the company must make a \$5M investment into new or expanded facilities in City limits. Making lease payments to the County isn't making a \$5M investment. However, I want World View to succeed, even if it is the County subsidizing the venture with your money at this point. The county folks have agreed there's a risk, but if World View fails, the County will take ownership of the building and launch pad for its own use. Here's the site plan to give you a better understanding of the layout.



We have our own budget concerns at the city. Whether it's talking regionally about appropriate ways to fund road repair, appropriate ways to incentivize a private company's development, or the regional economic driver that is the Sonoran Corridor, we should all be in this together.

...and a seat at the table of the animal care committee would have been a nice gesture.

I'm told by some county folks that they just hired the reporter who used to cover them at the Star. Maybe it's for messaging.

City Budget

The bottom line is that we have a budget problem nearly completely as a result of decisions made at the state level with respect to the police and fire pension system. If there's any question about that, here are the projected data for our General Fund obligation to pay for those pensions over the course of the next five fiscal years:

FY 15/16	\$52.2M	FY 17/18	\$78.5M	FY 19/20	\$87.5M
FY 16/17	\$65.0M	FY 18/19	\$85.5M		

Those numbers will change a little depending on what we do with police staffing – that's part of our current budget consideration – and also when we learn how much *more* we're going to have to pay in settlement of the second lawsuit filed by public safety against the state. However, our obligations will not change dramatically. They won't change much after the May 17th special election related to public safety pensions, either. All the talk about the ways in which we're going to balance our budget needs to take place with the realization that PSPRS is the elephant in the room.

On Tuesday, we'll see yet another presentation from staff on the budget. Here is the table from early in the budget process showing revenue changes we could make legislatively:

Revenue Option	Potential Action	Potential Financial Impact
Public Utility Tax	4% to 4.5%	\$1.7 M
Telecom, right-of-way	50% increase	\$1.6 M
Zoo Entrance Fee	Increase by \$3	\$1 M
Bed Tax	Increase by \$1	\$1 M
Advertising Tax	Set at 2%	\$1 M
Business License Fee	Increase by \$5	\$200,000
Increase existing fees	Parks and Recreation Planning & Development Fire Courts Parking Police	TBD

Last week in our budget material, that table changed somewhat. Here's what we'll see on Tuesday:

DRAFT

Department	Action	FY 16/17 Net Revenue (Annual Revenue Less Any Costs)
General Government	Increase Public Utility Tax from 4% to 5%	\$5,850,000
General Government	Increase Revenue Enforcement/Compliance (reinstate tax auditor position)	\$382,500
General Government	2% tax on advertising	\$1,000,000
Transit	Fare rate increases	\$500,000 - \$1,000,000
Parks and Recreation	Increase admission fee by \$3 for the Reid Park Zoo	\$750,000
Parks and Recreation	An across the board increase of all fees	\$175,000
Parks and Recreation	Develop new fee for tournament reservations at elite facilities (Lincoln, Hi Corbett, etc.)	\$25,000
Fire - Cost Recovery (ALS)	Hire another Cost Recovery Clerk to focus on denials, underpayments, and appeals.	\$251,000

If you saw the article in the Star last Saturday, you know I'm not on board with the tax on local businesses for advertising. Similarly, I continue to believe on the basis of past experience that simply increasing the cost to attend the zoo is counterproductive. It appears staff is now rethinking how much revenue it would raise. To support my claim that it's counterproductive, here are the numbers showing what happened to attendance and our General Fund obligation each time we increased zoo gate since I took office back in 2009:

FY09 - attendance 529,010
GF subsidy - \$1.3M
\$1 admission increase January 2010

FY10 - attendance 514,269
GF subsidy - \$1.2M

FY11 - attendance 524,701
GF subsidy - \$1.5M

FY12 - attendance 585,583 (exhibition Tanzania opens in March 2012)
 GF subsidy - \$1.4M
 \$2 admission increase July 2012

FY13 - attendance 549,929
 GF subsidy - \$1.6M

FY14 - attendance 568,028
 GF subsidy - \$1.3M

FY15 - attendance 618,359 (baby elephant born August 2014)
 GF subsidy - \$1.3M

And here's what I have already shared with staff:

It's just data - the 2010 admission increase resulted in a reduction in attendance and an associated increase in GF subsidy in the full year FY11. The \$2 admission increase in July 2012 resulted in a reduction in attendance and another increase in GF subsidy in FY13.

Unless there's an extraordinary event (opening a new exhibit or the birth of a baby elephant), the increases in gate results in reduced attendance and increased GF costs.

I will concede we don't know the FY16 attendance numbers yet, reflecting the reduced excitement over the new baby elephant. If the attendance has stayed constant this past fiscal year, it'll reverse the trend we've seen in the past.

Until I see that trend has reversed, I'll continue to recommend we don't increase the zoo entry fee, but instead ask that operation to participate in our budget balancing process through measures like increases in food, beverage, and merchandise prices inside the park and asking our partners at the Zoological Society to help fund operations by endowing certain positions within our zoo staff. They're already helping with the full-time veterinarian. I think we can be more creative than just asking people to now pay \$12 to enter.

We've got a 90-minute budget agenda item on Tuesday. These and plenty of other options will be considered.

Circle back to the PSPRS pension obligations. *If* we're going to ask the voters to approve a half-cent sales tax increase, it might make sense to simply identify the root of our problem (public safety pensions), and earmark all of the tax revenues from that increase to paying that debt. It'd be a very simple pitch to make – you'd know exactly where your dollars were going – and it'd free up \$45M to \$50M in the General Fund every year it was in effect. If the M&C want to take a tax question to the ballot, this is a direction I'm thinking about at this time.

Water Bills

Also involved with the larger conversation about our fiscal condition is the upcoming conversation about what might happen to water rates. While it doesn't affect the General

Fund, any increases in water bills will certainly have an impact on our other thoughts related to taxes and fees.

Last week we received good news from our financial people. They refunded a series of water bonds. The result will be a significant savings to Tucson Water over time. Here's a table showing the savings. Unless you're a bond expert, just look at the last column. That's the reduction in what we'll have to pay in each of the next nine years. The total savings will be just south of \$9M.

SAVINGS

CITY OF TUCSON Water System Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2016 Final Numbers-Verified

Date	Prior Debt Service	Refunding Debt Service	Savings	Present Value to 04/06/2016 @ 1.6259250%
07/01/2016	1,688,248.75	793,510.42	894,738.33	891,323.86
07/01/2017	10,101,497.50	6,525,750.00	3,575,747.50	3,504,946.17
07/01/2018	7,322,497.50	5,829,150.00	1,493,347.50	1,439,743.46
07/01/2019	12,733,897.50	11,732,250.00	1,001,647.50	949,570.11
07/01/2020	17,252,610.00	16,249,750.00	1,002,860.00	935,264.01
07/01/2021	17,398,410.00	16,398,000.00	1,000,410.00	918,074.15
07/01/2022	12,302,797.50	11,998,250.00	304,547.50	274,503.14
07/01/2023	17,870,260.00	17,868,000.00	2,260.00	1,475.97
07/01/2024	2,584,160.00	2,583,000.00	1,160.00	948.14
	99,254,378.75	89,977,660.42	9,276,718.33	8,915,849.01

Savings Summary

PV of savings from cash flow	8,915,849.01
Plus: Refunding funds on hand	3,174.89
Net PV Savings	8,919,023.90

When we get to talking about water rates, they will have already taken these savings into account. It's a good news item for which our staff deserves credit. It will mitigate whatever increases you may see in water rates going forward.

A final point to make: the reason the market responded so well to this refunding of the bonds is that we have built up responsible reserves in Tucson Water. That's not the case in

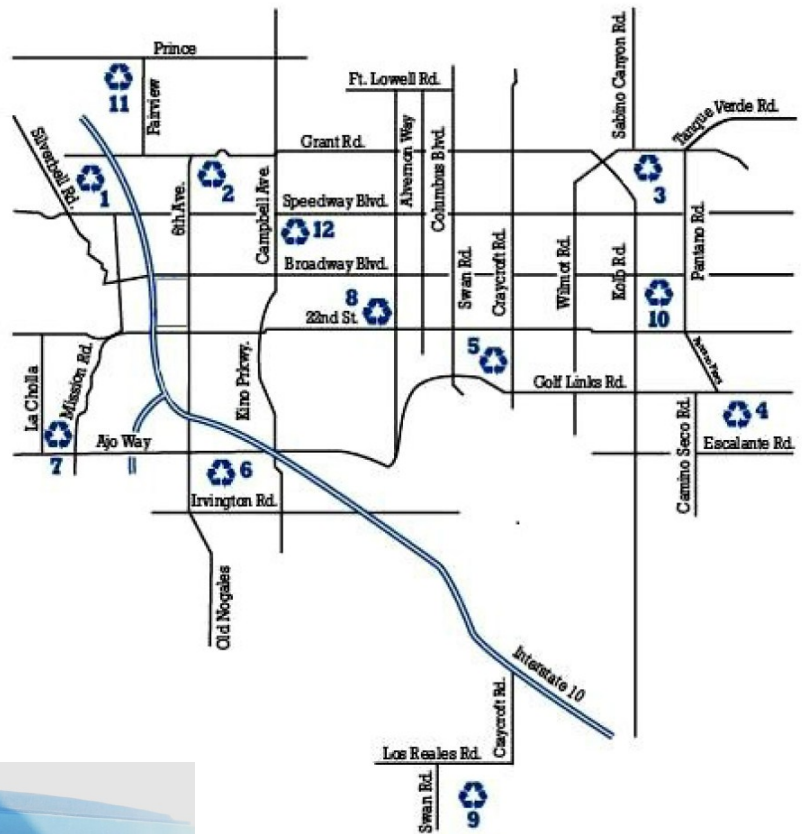
our General Fund, and it is one of the problems cited by the bonding agencies last year when they reduced our rating. There's another reason to get to structural balance – the cost of borrowing can be reduced. That's key when talking about how we're going to fund our unmet capital needs.

Environmental Services

Another of our enterprise departments (i.e., must pay its own bills) is Environmental Services (ES). ES collects your garbage, does brush and bulky pickup, monitors some closed wells, and of course handles our recycling program. Soon there will be a slight change to the recycling program that won't affect your ability to take part, but that you should know about because the visuals will change.

Because the revenue we're seeing from the sale of recyclable material has been dropping, there will be a change in how we handle our 12 neighborhood recycling centers. They're scattered around town – here's a map.

Currently, we have a contract with ReCommunity to sort the recyclables. They, in turn, contracted with Republic Environmental to collect the recyclables in roll-offs, pick up and dump them, and return the roll-offs to the sites. In order to reduce



costs, we're going to begin picking up the recyclable material with ES resources. The new containers you'll see at the neighborhood recycling centers will look like this:

Reducing the collection costs will help ReCommunity and it will also help the ES budget by adding revenue for hauling from the neighborhood recycle centers. Remember, with the move of Code Enforcement and graffiti abatement over to ES, we're looking for ways to help defray those added costs. This change will help.

The location of the sites won't change, just what you see when you arrive. Good work all around by the parties involved to come up with this solution.

3 Development Updates: RTC, Banner, and Broadway

Ronstadt Transit Center

Last December, we gave staff the go-ahead to begin working on a development agreement with Peach Properties and Swaim & Associates to renovate the Ronstadt Transit Center. Since that time, staff has been meeting with the development team and hammering out the details of the site. Also participating in those talks have been the City Manager's office, staff from Sun Tran, the City Attorney's office, our Economic Initiatives people, and the consulting firm that originally assisted with the technical review of the proposals (Rider Levett Bucknall). Things have been moving forward well.

In May, we expect to see a preliminary draft of the development agreement. Assuming it looks good and we don't need to send staff back to continue negotiations, we'll hold a study session to give direction to move ahead. The next step will include a public stakeholder meeting and sending the deal to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for its final review. Without the FTA signing off, there's no agreement.

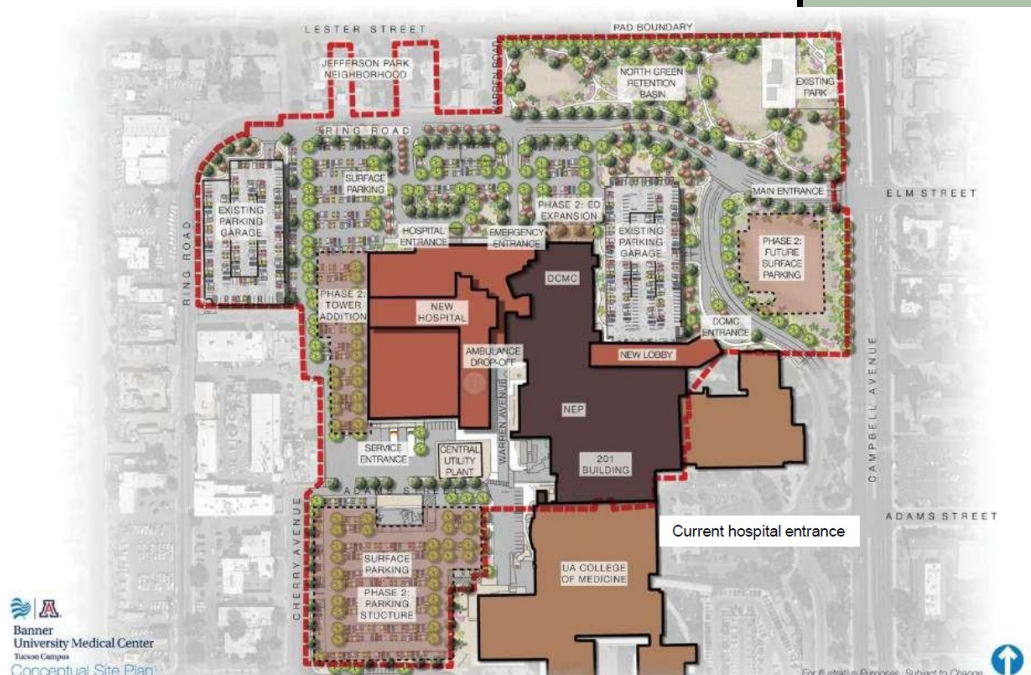
As you can see from all the parties involved with this, we're taking the build-out of this site very seriously. Staff is keeping us informed. As they do, I'll make sure to keep including updates in the newsletter.

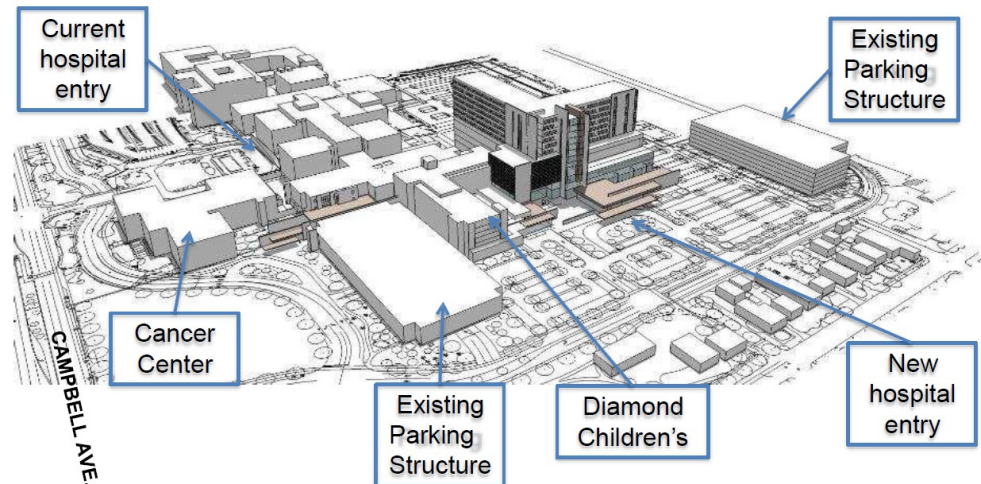
Banner UMC

Here's a rendering of the now-under-construction Banner hospital. Ground has been broken in the west parking area which will be the home of the new facility. It's scheduled to open in the second quarter of 2019, with final completion targeted for the second quarter of 2020.

When it's done, the facility will represent a \$400M investment into the community, with another \$100M by Banner at their north campus up Campbell, which is scheduled for completion early in 2018.

A community group has been formed so surrounding neighborhoods can keep up to speed on the progress. My office is included in that group. It meets quarterly, but Banner is producing an active website so you can check in on what's happening anytime you want. Here's a bird's eye view of the final project looking toward the southwest.





The expansion will eventually yield about 670,000 square feet of new construction. It's great to see the workers out on the site each time I walk past. Having this new state-of-the-art facility will benefit the community when it's finally completed. There are many of us watching to see what effect, if any, this will have on the cost of care in our market – but that's a different topic altogether.

Broadway RTA Project

Last week, the hard copy 30% proposed design was delivered to our office. It's also available to browse through at the Broadway project website (www.broadwayboulevard.info/planning.)

Anyone is welcome to come into the office and look through the design. The hard copy contains notes to explain how it differs from what the Citizen Task Force recommended. You can provide your comments online at www.broadwayboulevard.info/comments.php.

The public open house is coming next week, on Tuesday, March 29th at 5:30 p.m. at the Sabbar Shrine Temple (450 S. Tucson Blvd). The full project team will be on hand to answer your questions. M&C are scheduled to hold a public hearing on the plan during our evening session on April 5th. The intent is to secure approval to fund the start of property acquisition. Construction isn't expected to begin until 2018.

The project budget is \$71M. That's largely split between the RTA (\$42M) and the County (\$25M). The City picks up the remaining balance and any cost overruns. Last week, staff sent us a note estimating the cost for acquisitions and relocations at just under \$41M. That figure is based on their having met with property owners along the corridor, getting an idea of the property owners' intentions (stay or leave), and computing possible acquisition/relocation costs based on those conversations.

They've also estimated construction costs based on the 30% design. That figure comes in at right around \$28M. In the communication we received, it was noted that the estimated construction cost does not "include any potential VE (value engineering) opportunities that we will be pursuing as we move towards 60% design plans." I've asked what those VE ideas are. It matters because it affects not only what the corridor will look like in the end, but also how it will function for all who drive to and through it.

We've already spent about \$8M during design. Adding those numbers shows that right now, if they all held true, the project would cost \$76M. That's \$5M over budget. If that happens, we'll have to fund that balance.

I'll spend time with the 30% plans ahead of the April 5th public hearing. I've already read through the Design Concept Report (also available online) and have some questions that will need to be answered. I hear from multiple constituents who also will be submitting questions and likely coming to speak at the public hearing. Some are in favor of what they see and others not so much. The only thing that's certain is that when we vote on the 5th, about half of the room will leave less than satisfied.

Neighborhood Quality of Life

Each of those projects will affect the quality of life enjoyed in the neighborhoods nearby. They will affect the business environment nearby, as well. All of it matters.

Periodically, the UA's Drachman Institute studies neighborhoods in close proximity to campus. The goal is to identify trends with respect to ownership vs. rental rates. Major changes to the perimeter of neighborhoods can have an impact on whether or not people invest in home ownership there, or if the areas become predominantly student housing rentals. Last week, I received the most recent report from Drachman. Here are the results:

Blenman Elm (0.72 sq. mi)

	2000	2010	2015
Owner-Occupied	849 (49.7%)	691 (39.6%)	624 (34.6%)
Renter-Occupied	739 (43.2%)	851 (48.8%)	960 (53.2%)
Vacant	122 (7.1%)	203 (11.6%)	221 (12.2%)
Total	1710	1745	1805

Feldman's (0.34 sq. mi)

	2000	2010	2015
Owner-Occupied	246 (20.0%)	201 (15.7%)	170 (12.7%)
Renter-Occupied	915 (74.3%)	935 (72.9%)	1031 (77.2%)
Vacant	70 (5.7%)	146 (11.4%)	135 (10.1%)
Total	1231	1282	1336

Catalina Vista (0.23 sq. mi)

	2000	2010	2015
Owner-Occupied	194 (57.6%)	164 (48.5%)	144 (42.7%)
Renter-Occupied	120 (35.6%)	141 (41.7%)	157 (46.6%)
Vacant	23 (6.8%)	33 (9.8%)	36 (10.7%)
Total	337	338	337

Iron Horse (0.11 sq. mi)

	2000	2010	2015
Owner-Occupied	63 (15.4%)	56 (14.4%)	47 (12.0%)
Renter-Occupied	314 (77.0%)	298 (76.8%)	305 (77.6%)
Vacant	31 (7.6%)	34 (8.8%)	41 (10.4%)
Total	408	388	393

El Cortez (0.08 sq. mi)

	2000	2010	2015
Owner-Occupied	96 (42.7%)	75 (31.0%)	61 (26.5%)
Renter-Occupied	112 (49.8%)	138 (57.0%)	143 (62.2%)
Vacant	17 (7.5%)	29 (12.0%)	26 (11.3%)
Total	225	242	230

Jefferson Park (0.44 sq. mi)

	2000	2010	2015
Owner-Occupied	451 (43.1%)	339 (26.9%)	291 (23.1%)
Renter-Occupied	542 (51.7%)	800 (63.4%)	846 (67.1%)
Vacant	54 (5.2%)	123 (9.7%)	123 (9.8%)
Total	1047	1262	1260

North University (0.36 sq. mi)

	2000	2010	2015
Owner-Occupied	140 (13.4%)	109 (11.9%)	90 (9.9%)
Renter-Occupied	852 (81.3%)	742 (81.2%)	758 (83.3%)
Vacant	56 (5.3%)	63 (6.9%)	61 (6.7%)
Total	1048	914	910

Rincon Heights (0.32 sq. mi)

	2000	2010	2015
Owner-Occupied	200 (15.9%)	173 (14.6%)	146 (12.0%)
Renter-Occupied	991 (79.0%)	898 (75.8%)	958 (78.7%)
Vacant	64 (5.1%)	114 (9.6%)	113 (9.3%)
Total	1255	1185	1217

Northwest (0.22 sq. mi)

	2000	2010	2015
Owner-Occupied	251 (42.3%)	183 (29.3%)	160 (24.5%)
Renter-Occupied	315 (53.1%)	382 (61.1%)	424 (64.9%)
Vacant	27 (4.6%)	60 (9.6%)	69 (10.6%)
Total	593	625	653

Sam Hughes (1.02 sq. mi)

	2000	2010	2015
Owner-Occupied	1294 (51.7%)	1186 (44.3%)	1051 (38.8%)
Renter-Occupied	1051 (42.0%)	1245 (46.5%)	1399 (51.7%)
Vacant	159 (6.3%)	245 (9.2%)	256 (9.5%)
Total	2504	2676	2706

Pie Allen (0.18 sq. mi)

	2000	2010	2015
Owner-Occupied	49 (9.7%)	58 (12.4%)	52 (10.3%)
Renter-Occupied	434 (85.8%)	358 (76.5%)	385 (76.1%)
Vacant	23 (4.5%)	52 (11.1%)	69 (13.6%)
Total	506	468	506

West University (0.5 sq. mi)

	2000	2010	2015
Owner-Occupied	297 (19.6%)	282 (18.6%)	235 (15.4%)
Renter-Occupied	1130 (74.7%)	1105 (73.1%)	1166 (76.6%)
Vacant	86 (5.7%)	125 (8.3%)	122 (8.0%)
Total	1513	1512	1523

City of Tucson

	2000	2010	2015
Owner-Occupied	103,056 (49.2%)	106,651 (46.4%)	99,504 (42.1%)
Renter-Occupied	89,835 (42.8%)	98,739 (43.0%)	109,602 (46.4%)
Vacant	16,718 (8.0%)	24,372 (10.6%)	27,209 (11.5%)
Total	209,609	229,762	236,315

Sources: U.S. Census Data provided by Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), Community Analyst Data Service, 2015. Neighborhood boundaries per City of Tucson, 2014. <http://maps.tucsonaz.gov/hcd/index.html>. 2010 Census results describe the population and housing as it was on April 1, 2010.

It's striking to me that in every neighborhood, the percentage of rentals since 2000 has increased, with the exception of Rincon Heights and Pie Allen. But in both of those neighborhoods there are a significant number of vacant properties that could end up as rentals. Citywide, we're nearly half renter occupied.

I know there are multiple reasons for renting and not buying. But if one accepts the premise that the greater the percentage of owner-occupied houses, the greater the stability of the neighborhood – and I do – then it places an even greater level of importance on how we design the major construction projects that constitute the buffers of these neighbor-

hoods.

Many thanks to Marilyn Robinson for sharing this data. It comes in at an important time relative to design decisions we're soon going to be asked to make.



Along similar lines, this week's local Tucson bit features an event that will be taking place on the Sunshine Mile, on Broadway just west of Tucson Boulevard. It's the old Panda Buffet site that's now the home to weekly Food Truck Rallies.



Coming on April 9th, from 8am until 2pm, is the first Sunshine Mile Pop-up Market.

This will be a chance for local artisans and other vendors to highlight their work at the Panda site. The Sunshine Mile Merchants Association are putting on the event. If you'd like to support local vendors, head over there on the 9th. It's the sort of community gathering many of us envisioned when meeting with city staff in the aftermath of the Panda demolition.

Check out this website for more information on the event: <http://www.sunshinemilemarket.com/market>

Garden District Porch Fest

I'll also include in this week's local Tucson item the upcoming Garden District Porch Fest. It's coming up on Sunday, April 3rd, and will run from 3:00 until 6:00 p.m.

I've talked about the Broadmoor/Broadway and Blenman-Elm neighborhood porch fest events in previous newsletters. These are opportunities for you to stroll, bike, or jog through an area and listen to local musicians who will be playing in peoples' front yards or carports. The Garden District's event will be bounded between Pima and Grant on the south and north, and Alvernon and Columbus on the west and east. This is right in the heart of midtown and easy to get to from anywhere.

As with the other Porch Fest events, they'll have food trucks, so you don't have to pack anything to munch on during your visit. These are always laidback and fun. I hope you can join us for some portion of the event.



Another midtown event that's coming soon is the spring Cyclovia. It will take place on April 10th from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The 2.5 mile route will run between Himmel Park and the Lost Barrio neighborhood. See the next page for a map.

Last week, I shared the news that Living Streets Alliance was honored as one of the nation's top advocacy groups. Cyclovia

Tucson is one of LSA's signature events.



living streets alliance presents:

Cyclovia
TUCSON CAR FREE
& CARE-FREE

APRIL 10, 2016 • 10AM-3PM
LOST BARRIO TO HIMMEL PARK - 2.5 MILES



Cyc'lo'via, a Spanish word, means temporarily closing roads to turn them over to people to walk, bike, jog, skateboard – to get from one end of a route to the other in whatever non-motorized manner they choose. Along the way, there are a series of activities in which to take part. Cyclovia events are not Tucson-centric. In fact, Bogota, Columbia, closes down over 70 miles of roadway to cars every Sunday and holiday all year to allow people to spend the day walking/talking/exercising/picnicking – just being out in the streets with their neighbors.

The organizers are still looking for help to put the April 10th event on. If you can volunteer, please go to cycloviatucson.org to register.

Conserve2Enhance Program

We received word last week that the 2016 Conserve2Enhance (C2E) grant cycle is now open. Find the application here: <https://conserve2enhance.org/node/79>. These are the an-

nually awarded grants for projects that improve our urban waterways and riparian habitats throughout the community. We had two awarded in Ward 6 last year – one in Feldman’s neighborhood and the other at Sky Islands High School.

C2E projects restore or enhance vegetation and habitat near Tucson’s urban washes and waterways. The selection committee will look to see how proposed project benefits our natural riparian areas and emphasizes partnerships between different groups around the community. They’ll also look at how the project will engender long-term stewardship commitments.

This time around, they’re going to give special consideration to areas with low urban tree canopy cover and high surface temperature conditions. There will be a Grant Workshop held on Wednesday, April 6th from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. in the Ward 6 community room. The deadline for applying is Monday, May 2nd by 5:00 p.m.

Please RSVP for the workshop by sending an email to Tucson@conserve2enhance.org. In addition, the Tucson C2E website (<https://conserve2enhance.org/Tucson>) contains more details about what they’re looking for and how you can get involved.

Birding in Tucson



I’ll close with this. When I was on a game safari in Africa, I found a new appreciation for the amazing variety of birds that exist in nature. That little guy’s a “lilac breasted roller.” He was one of the many species I saw while out on safari.

Our Parks and Recreation department has been working with the Tucson Audubon Society to put together a map showing some of the Tucson hot-spots for people who want to get out and spot birds

in our area. We’ve got over 350 species in and around Tucson.

The map shows 45 of the best locations in the area. They include desert, mountain, and wet-land locations. Funding for the map came from the Arizona Game and Fish Department’s Heritage Fund, so this is a multi-agency effort.

Here’s a link to the online version of the map: <http://arccg.is/1ouG7BP>. You’ll also see it featured on Parks’ website: <http://1.usa.gov/1PPw3NS>.

I’ll admit that I saw some pretty strange looking birds in Kenya. While I doubt we’ve got many to compare, what you’ll see in our region is none the less impressive, and just getting outdoors and looking for them will be good exercise for your mind and body.

Sincerely,

Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6

Events and Entertainment

Landlord/Property Owner Forum at UA

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 | 9 am – 12 pm

University of Arizona | RSVP to MaryLaughbaum@email.arizona.edu for directions
The University of Arizona Community Relations team invites you to join a special seminar focused on empowering local property owners and managers who rent to UA students. Join the UA Neighborhood Network and learn of resources and information that will help you have a successful experience with your student tenants.

Sam Hughes Garden Tour

Sunday, April 10, 2016 | 10 am – 4 pm

Get day-of tickets at Sam Hughes School, 700 N. Wilson Ave, inner courtyard

Self-guided walkable tour featuring: eight private resident gardens, Sam Hughes Elementary School Gardens, the historic water pump station house and tower, a water education demonstration by Arizona Project Wet and a demonstration site for the Sam Hughes Neighborhood “first in the nation” neighborhood phenology trail. For more information, visit www.samhughes.org or call 520-327-7609.

Broadway in Tucson: 42nd Street

March 30, 2016 – April 3, 2016

UA Centennial Hall, 1020 E University Blvd

The quintessential backstage musical comedy classic, *42nd Street* is the song and dance fable of Broadway with an American Dream story and includes some of the greatest songs ever written, such as “We’re In The Money,” “Lullaby of Broadway,” “Shuffle Off To Buffalo,” “Dames,” “I Only Have Eyes For You” and of course “42nd Street.”

www.broadwayintucson.com/shows_street.html

Ongoing...

Tucson Convention Center, 260 S Church St | tucsonconventioncenter.com

Meet Me at Maynards, 311 E Congress St | www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

A social walk/run through the Downtown area. Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too! Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

Mission Garden, 929 W Mission Ln | www.tucsonsbirthplace.org

A re-creation of the Spanish Colonial walled garden that was part of Tucson’s historic San Agustin Mission. For guided tours call 520-777-9270.

Children's Museum Tucson, 200 S 6th Ave | www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturday & Sunday: 10:00am - 5:00pm

Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N Alvernon Way | www.tucsonbotanical.org

October 1, 2015 – May 31, 2016: “Butterfly Magic” Exhibit

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, 414 N Toole Ave |

www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org

UA Mineral Museum, 1601 E University Blvd | www.uamineralmuseum.org

Jewish History Museum, 564 S Stone Ave | www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Fox Theatre, 17 W Congress St | www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Hotel Congress, 311 E Congress St | hotelcongress.com

Loft Cinema, 3233 E Speedway Blvd | www.loftcinema.com

Rialto Theatre, 318 E Congress St | www.rialtotheatre.com

Arizona State Museum, 1013 E University Blvd | www.statemuseum.arizona.edu

Arizona Theater Company, 330 S Scott Ave | www.arizonatheatre.org

The Rogue Theatre, The Historic Y, 300 E University Blvd | www.theroguetheatre.org

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N Main Ave | www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org

January 16 – June 3, 2016: “Waterflow: Under the Colorado River”